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Santa Maria del Rio

SANTA MARIA DEL RIO

Give me crystal words
To tell you about the water that runs down the desert
 leaving a wake of orange-trees;
And words made of opals
To tell you how the hummingbirds look and what the night-
 ingales say.

THE MUSEUM

From the shadow of an inner arch looks down a god:
Condor-fringe binds his temples,
And his mouth is that of a serpent.
Intent,
He peers between square eyelids
To watch Lupe, the flower-girl from the cathedral steps,
Sell me *jasmin del Gran Duque*.

GULF VIEW

Between the striped walls of the canyon
Burns a crescent of blue water, arresting, poignant:
Jewel-blue,
 soul of opals and sapphires;
Feather-blue,
 stain of indigo on the peacock's breast;